Spotlight on Digital Library Forums
Understanding Language Series

The purpose of the Digital Library Spotlight Forums is to connect state, district, and building leaders and teachers across Smarter Balanced member states to discuss timely topics facilitated by national experts and innovative practitioners.

- **Relevant**
- **Timely**
- **Innovative**

The first Spotlight Forum series is targeted to state education agency staff and features modules created by the Understanding Language team. Forums will be facilitated by the authors who are well-known experts in content areas and the field of English Language Learners. During each forum, these experts will be available to discuss questions about their respective modules. *Understanding Language's five modules make up a comprehensive package focused on the entire formative assessment process, with an emphasis on the use of language within content area learning. The modules feature instruction in both English language arts and mathematics across various grade levels, and highlight different practices that require the use of language in the Common Core State Standards.*

Digital Library Resource	Forum Facilitators	Forum Dates
Developing Constructive Classroom Conversations in Grades K-2 https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/developing-constructive-classroom-conversations-grades-k-2	Kenji Hakuta Sara Rutherford-Quach	March 16-20
Formative Assessment of Written Language in Grades 6-8 https://www.smarterbalancedlibrary.org/content/formative-assessment-written-language-grades-6-8	Ixchel Samson Elsa Billings David Pearson Alison Bailey	March 16-20
6-8 Math Argumentation	Judit Moschkovich Jack Dieckmann	March 23 - 27
3-5 Mathematical Reasoning	Jeff Zwiers Sara Rutherford-Quach	March 23 - 27
3-5 Reading	Neil Hasser David Pearson Alison Bailey	March 30 – April 3

Join the Conversations

- ✓ Click on the module URL in the table above.
- ✓ Log in to your Smarter Balanced Digital Library account. For assistance with a login contact your state coordinator or Help Desk.
- ✓ Once you log in, you will be on the module page. Click on the Collaboration tab directly below the preview window and select the Spotlight forum.
- ✓ Join the discussion: Share your own experiences, respond to colleagues around the country, and pose questions.

A Balanced Assessment System

The Smarter Balanced Assessment Consortium is committed to ensuring that all students leave high school prepared for postsecondary success. A balanced assessment system — which includes the formative assessment process as well as interim and summative assessments — provides tools to improve teaching and learning. The formative assessment process is an essential component of a balanced assessment system.

Digital Library
Available Now
Resources to help educators implement formative assessment practices to improve teaching and learning

Interim Assessments
Available Winter 2014-15
Optional online assessments to check student progress and help teachers plan and improve instruction

Summative Assessments
Available Spring 2015
Year-end assessments in mathematics and English language arts/literacy for grades 3-8 and 11 that use both computer adaptive testing and performance tasks

Digital Library

The Digital Library is an online collection of instructional and professional learning resources contributed by educators for educators. These resources are aligned with the intent of the Common Core State Standards and will help educators implement the formative assessment process to improve teaching and learning. The Digital Library incorporates collaboration features providing educators opportunities to review resources using a rating system and share their expertise with colleagues across the country in online forums.

Formative Assessment Process

Formative assessment is a **deliberate process** used by teachers and students **during instruction** that provides **actionable feedback** that is used to **adjust** ongoing teaching and learning strategies to improve students' attainment of curricular learning targets/goals.

Formative Assessment Process

Cross-State Collaboration

Professional Learning & Instructional Resources

"This well-organized archive collection of strategies that real teachers have tried with real students in real classrooms is a clearinghouse of what works."

– What teachers are saying about the Digital Library